

Application No. 09/811,389
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated January 14, 2004
April 14, 2004

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 20, 24 and 26 have been cancelled and claims 11, 13, 18, 21, 23 and 25 have been amended. Currently, claims 11-19 and 21, 23 and 25 are pending in the application.

The indication that claims 23 and 25 are allowable is noted with appreciation. Also, the indication that claims 13 and 18 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 11 and 24-25 were objected to because the phrase "a surface of a photographic paper" should read -- a surface of the photographic paper --. By this amendment, the phrase "a surface of a photographic paper" in claims 11 and 25 has been amended to recite -- a surface of the photographic paper --. Claim 24 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that these objections should be withdrawn in view of these amendments.

Similarly, claims 14, 18 and 23 were objected to because the phrase "optical paths adjusting system" should read -- optical path adjusting system --. By this amendment, the phrase "optical paths adjusting system" in claims 14, 18 and 23 has been amended to -- optical path adjusting system --. It is respectfully

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submitted that these objections should be withdrawn in view of these amendments.

The Examiner stated that claims 11-12, 15, 17, 19-21 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,441) in view of Mochizuki et al. (U.S. No. 4,841,137). The Examiner also stated that claims 14 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. in view of Mochizuki et al., as applied to claim 11 and further in view of Uemura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,436,645). The Examiner also stated that claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. in view of Mochizuki et al., as applied to claim 11 and further in view of Winsor (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,059).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

By this amendment, claims 20, 24 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 11 and 21 have been rewritten to incorporate the allowable subject matter that the Examiner considered to be allowable in claim 25. Specifically, claim 11 has amended to include "whereby all the positions of the laser beams can be adjusted to overlap at a certain point on the predetermined scanning plane". Claims 13 and 18 have been rewritten into independent claims reciting

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all of the limitations recited in claim 11 as amended including the allowable subject matter from claim 25.

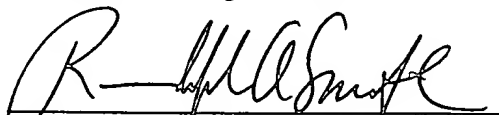
Independent claims 11, 13, 18 and 21 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25 included to be allowable by the Examiner.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 11-19, 21, 23 and 25 are allowable.

In view of foregoing claim amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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